

What is claimed is:

1. A magnetic head and disk tester, comprising:
  - A. a base having a support assembly which rotatably supports a magnetic disk;
  - B. a movable carriage supported by said base, said carriage having a magnetic head support for supporting a magnetic head with a magnetic read/write element, said magnetic head support having a longitudinal axis; and
  - C. positioning means for moving said carriage with said magnetic head with respect to said magnetic disk along two perpendicular motion axes X and Y, wherein said longitudinal axis of the head and said X axis forms a predetermined angle between 0 degrees and 90 degrees.
2. A magnetic head and disk tester according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined angle is about 45 degrees.
3. A method of moving a magnetic read/write head across a magnetic disk so that said head and disk can be tested electrically, said magnetic head being supported by a magnetic head support which extends from a carriage, said magnetic head support having a longitudinal axis, said method comprising:
  - rotationally supporting said disk on a stationary base;
  - installing said carriage onto a coordinate system, wherein said carriage is movable on said coordinate system in a two perpendicular directions X and Y, and wherein said magnetic head support and said magnetic head is positioned such that said longitudinal axis of said magnetic head support forms a predetermined angle with respect to said X direction; and
  - driving said carriage in said two directions such that said magnetic head traverses across said disk.

4. A method of moving a magnetic read/write head across a magnetic disk according to claim 3, wherein said predetermined angle is about 45 degrees.
5. The magnetic head and disk tester with an X-Y moving platform where the angle between the head longitudinal axis and the X-axis is not equal to 90° which introduces a tradeoff between X and Y movement ranges for the required range of skew angles. This tradeoff allows choosing long X-movements and short Y-movements to avoid crashing the head or/and the head loader arm into the spindle hub.
6. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 5 where a V-shaped head loader is installed on the X-Y moving platform for top and bottom head testing on the same surface of the disk.
7. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 5 where X and Y movement ranges are chosen in such a way that neither top nor bottom head can crash into the spindle hub.
8. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 5, wherein X and Y-movements are restricted by mechanical limiters.
9. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 6, wherein the head loader allows installing the heads at both surfaces of the disk. In this configuration the top head testing area can be used to test both top and bottom heads and the bottom head testing area can be used to test both bottom and top heads.
10. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 5, wherein the angle between the head longitudinal axis and the X-axis is chosen in such a way that only X-movement is used to achieve required skew angles.
11. The magnetic head and disk tester of claim 5, wherein X movement range is wide enough to reach unload positions away from the disk without the possibility to crash the head or/and the head loader arm into the spindle hub.